

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Coin validator having a thread sensor which is disposed in the region of the coin insertion channel, and having a coin validating device for controlling the acceptance or rejection of an inserted coin, the thread sensor having a first toothing, which is disposed on a stationary part of the coin insertion channel, and a second toothing, which is disposed on a pendulum, said toothings being disengaged upon insertion of a coin, and having a switching device which is in operational connection with the pendulum and emits a signal to the coin validating device upon insertion of a coin, characterised in that the pendulum (7) is a component of a coin insertion funnel (4) which is connected detachably to the housing (2) of the coin validator as a wearing part and forms part of the coin insertion channel, the pivot point of the pendulum 7, which is articulated on the remaining part (6) of the coin insertion funnel (4) is offset laterally to the first and second toothing (13, 14), as observed in cross-section, in such a manner that the second toothing (14), in the insertion direction of the coin, becomes disengaged from the first toothing (13) downwardly in an arc-shape, or the second toothing (14) engages in the first toothing (13) from below in an arc-shape.

2. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to claim 1, characterised in that the switching device is an optical switching device (12) which has a light sensor and light receiver and also a switching arm (10) acting on the light emitted from the light transmitter, said switching arm being connected to the pendulum (7).

3. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to claim 2, characterised in that the light transmitter and light receiver are disposed next to each other on a chip and form a reflection coupler (12), the switching arm (10), in its inoperative state, being opposite the reflection coupler (12) in a fixed association in order to reflect the light emitted from the light transmitter.

4. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 3, characterised in that the switching arm pivots in the same direction as the second tothing.

5. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, characterised in that the light transmitter and light receiver or the reflection coupler (~~12~~) are mounted on a printed circuit board (~~13~~) which is securely connected to the housing.

6. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 5, characterised in that the pendulum (~~7~~), on the side which is remote from the second tothing, has receiving projections (~~17~~) for receiving a flat weight.

7. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 6, characterised in that the switching arm (~~10~~) is disposed outwith the coin insertion opening of the coin insertion funnel.

8. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 7, characterised in that the first tothing is configured in such a manner that an arcuate insertion of the second tothing (~~15~~) from below is possible.

9. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 8, characterised in that the coin insertion funnel forms a form-fitting connection with the housing.